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Washington, D.C. 20520

DATE 1/15/70

January 15, 1970

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TO: The Under Secretary

THROUGH: S/S

FROM: EA - Marshall Green

SUBJECT: Briefing of Friendly Governments and the Press on the Warsaw Meeting

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Reviewed by: 6/28 78

We will be faced next week, soon after the meeting with the Chinese at Warsaw on Tuesday, with urgent requests by a number of countries for the type of background briefing on the meeting which we have made it a practice in the past to provide to our close allies. I sent you earlier today a memorandum from the Office of Asian Communist Affairs reviewing our past experience and practice in providing such briefings. I attach to this memorandum more detailed draft guidance outlining the briefing we would provide foreign diplomats and the press following the January 20 meeting.

These guidelines, of course, are based on the instructions to Ambassador Stoessel which were approved by the Secretary and naturally are subject to change. Furthermore, we obviously do not know what the Chinese will say on January 20 and guidance on Chinese comments would have to be added on later. The principal points, I think, on which to try to reach agreement now is that we should (A) provide some backgrounding of our allies and (B) for the time being hold very closely and not discuss in any of our briefings the new formulations we hope to be setting forward to the Chinese.

You may wish to raise this question with Dr. Kissinger during your lunch with him today.

Attachment:
Guidance

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Guidance on Diplomatic and Press Briefing on
Warsaw Meeting January 20

Diplomatic Briefing

We discussed with the Chinese our wish to see a reduction in tensions in Asia, our desire for an improvement in our own relationships with Peking, and that we did not wish to isolate ourselves from mainland China. We emphasized that we did not wish to interfere in the Sino-Soviet dispute and that our interests were in working to improve relations with both Peking and Moscow. We reiterated the Guam Doctrine with its emphasis on self-reliance combined with the maintenance of existing US commitments in Asia. We recalled our trade and travel moves of 1969 as well as a number of other proposals for exchange, contact, and communication between the US and mainland China and expressed interest in learning the Chinese views of these as well as any other issues the Chinese might want to discuss.

We emphasized our general wish for peace in Asia and our hope that the Chinese would contribute toward this general goal. In the same way we recalled the importance of disarmament in a reduction of tensions and expressed hope that this was a subject we and Peking might discuss further. We noted our continuing wish for peace in the Taiwan area while reiterating that our commitments to the GRC remained unaltered. Finally, we renewed our concern for Americans being held by Communist China and urged their release.

The tone of our presentation was conciliatory. We did not engage in polemical exchanges. Our principal purpose was to improve the atmosphere for subsequent talks and no fundamental shift in US policy voiced on any major issues.

Press Briefing

US Ambassador Walter J. Stoessel, Jr. and Chinese Charge d'Affaires Lei Yang met for ___ hours in Warsaw on January 20 in the Chinese Embassy. They exchanged views on a number of subjects in a cordial atmosphere. By mutual agree-

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ment, the specific subjects dealt with are kept in confidence. It was agreed that they would be in touch in the near future regarding a subsequent meeting but no specific date was agreed upon for such a meeting.

(We would also provide additional general background information on the arrangements and circumstances of the meeting.)

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